

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 17, 2005 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the claims have been amended as set forth above. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, which indication is appreciatively acknowledged.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Harrison in view of Momtaz. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected as being unpatentable over the same combination further in view of Ninomiya. The claimed have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited references. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In particular, the claims have been amended to recite that the phase/frequency comparator is designed to *sample* the first and second input signals and to emit the first regulation signal. Such sampling is performed by the flip-flops L1 and L2 of Figure 2, for example.

In contrast to the prior art, using the claimed arrangement, during frequency acquisition phase, sampling the input signals (e.g., using the D flip-flops L1, L2 and the pulse reset generators P1, P2) ensures that each rising edge of the input signals (e.g., Vdiv or Vref) is taken into account. Improved responsiveness is thereby achieved.

None of the prior art of record is believed to teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed. Accordingly, claims 1, 4 and 7 are believed to patentably define over the cited references.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are also believed to add novel and patentable subject matter to their respective independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ure', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: March 22, 2005